(a) whether Government have received a proposal from Air Sahara for purchase of new aircrafts from various sources;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether the aircrafts proposed to be acquired are on long-term dry lease or on some other terms and conditions such as purchase from Canada; and

(d) the details of the proposal submitted by Air Sahara in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (d) : Government has recently permitted M/s. Air Sahara to import eight CRJ-200 (50 seater) and four CRJ-700 (70 seater) aircraft from foreign airlines on dry lease basis.

M/s. Air Sahara has also submitted a proposal for import of two B-737-700 (136 seater) and two B-737-800 (168 seater)a ire raft on dry lease basis.

lA's fleet expansion plans

1360. SHRIJ. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI GAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Finance has objected to the fleet expansion plan of the Indian Airlines;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reason therefor; and

(c) the response of the Ministry of Civil Aviation thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) The proposal that has been received from Indian Airlines Ltd. has been circulated to various apprasing agencies tike Planning Commission, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Environment etc. Their comments, when received will be discussed in a pre-PIB (Public Investment Board) meeting.

Security lapse on Delhi-Mumbai flight

1361. SHRI B.J. PANDA;
MISS MABEL REBELLO:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a police Sub-Inspector carrying his

service pistol with live rounds had almost boarded a Jet Airways unchecked on Delhi-Mumbai flight;

(b) what were the causes of the lapse together with the action taken to plug the loopholes;

(c) whether connivance of any body else has been detected in the matter; and

(d) whether any foolproof system has been put in place to control such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) On 23rd August, 2002, a Sub-Inspector of Maharashtra Police, who was escorting an accused person, was allowed by a Sub-Inspector of Delhi Police to pass through the security hold area for boarding Jet Airways flight to Mumbai. The Sub-Inspector, with his pistol alongwith rounds was allowed in Jhe cabin of the aircraft, but was off-loaded on detection of the weapon. This was a serious lapse on the part of the Sub-Inspector of Delhi Police, who has been placed under suspension.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Necessary instructions regarding carriage of weapons on board are in force.

Clearance for commercial flights of Pakistan

1362. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan wants India to give clearance for commercial fights too; and

(b) if so, what is the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Government have already lifted , with effect from June 10,2002, all restrictions placed since January 1 of this year on Pakistani Aircraft and Pakistani Airlines to overfly Indian territory subject to normal procedures for approval, as appropriate, being followed as before. Pakistan has, however, not yet responded to India's gesture.